United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2008
From: Don Mclaughlin

Subject: First and Final POLREP
Berkeley Family Medicine
101 Marclay Drive, Martinsburg, WV
Latitude: 39.4752720
Longitude: -77.9726580

POLREP No.:	1	**Site #:**	A3KW
Reporting Period:	04/10/08 to 04/18/08	**D.O. #:**	
Start Date:	4/10/2008	**Response Authority:**	CERCLA
Mob Date:	4/10/2008	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Demob Date:	4/10/2008	**NPL Status:**	Non NPL
Completion Date:	4/17/2008	**Incident Category:**	Removal Assessment
CERCLIS ID #:		**Contract #**	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

On April 10, 2008, OSC McLaughlin received a call from the Berkeley County WV Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Director requesting EPA assistance to address a Baumamometer Sphygmomanometer (blood pressure device) mercury release at a medical facility. The release was discovered by a patient who was in Examination Room 3 (ER3), awaiting a checkup from one of the staff physicians. The OSC activated START to prepare for mercury air sampling using both the Jerome and Lumex monitoring devices, and EPA and START mobilized to the facility. Upon arriving at the facility, the OSC met with the Berkeley County Fire Chief, and the Berkeley County EOC Director, along with the physicians and staff at the medical facility. Prior to the meeting, the OSC directed those personnel who had gone into ER3, where the mercury was released, to remove their shoes to prevent potential spread of mercury through the facility. EPA and START arrived at the facility and began the assessment using the Jerome and Lumex monitoring devices. Readings outside ER3 prior to opening the door were slightly above residential standards. Using 50ug/m3 as the level of concern for a mercury vapor release, ER3 was then opened, and air monitoring inside the room showed levels of 161 ug/m3 using the Jerome, and the Lumex readings went over range. The Lumex range was readjusted to continue monitoring in the examination room. The breathing zone just inside the doorway of ER3 showed Jerome levels of 55 ug/m3. Jerome readings in ER3 on the floor below the blood pressure monitor on a wall showed levels of 177 ug/m3 and 73 ug/m3 in the breathing zone. A Red "Bio-Hazard" Bag with approximately 10 grams of recovered mercury inside a glove finger inside a ziplock bag was on the counter in ER3, apparently picked up by one of the staff nurses. Elevated readings were evident throughout the room. A pool of small mercury beads were observed and spread out on the floor. Mercury spill control material was applied to the floor to control the

fumes and to bond with the mercury. Readings in the hallway area outside of the room taken at the breathing zone showed levels 3.0 ug/m3. The Lumex was used to screen the floor level and breathing zone throughout the rest of the examining rooms, offices and lab. The readings ranged from 1.3 to 3.6 ug/m3 in both the floor area and breathing zone. These low level readings throughout the facility are believed to be due to the emergency exit door, located near ER3, being propped open to allow fresh air to ventilate the facility. The OSC spoke with the staff and recommended that they contact their insurance company to locate a mercury spill contractor to perform the cleanup of ER3, with follow up EPA oversight of the contractor. ER3 is currently sealed with duct tape and caution tape to prevent entry, awaiting the arrival of the cleanup contractor. The OSC requested that the facility not turn on the HVAC system for that end of the building where ER3 is located, until the room is properly cleaned. Shoes of the staff who participated in the cleanup were screened inside of ziplock bags, and determined to be contaminated. The shoes were resealed in the bags and returned to ER3 to have the cleanup contractor address. Prior to demobing from Martinsburg, EPA and START visited the patient's family who had identified the mercury release, and conducted sampling on their shoes and vehicles that were driven from the medical facility. All readings indicated no level of concern. The OSC received a call from a mercury cleanup contractor on April 11, 2008, and the contractor is in the process of initiating a mercury cleanup response at the medical facility. The OSC plans to revisit the facility and provide oversight to the cleanup contractor as necessary.

Current Activities

On April 15, 2008, another blood pressure cuff ruptured in an Examination Room, and the RP Contractor was already onsite initiating mercury cleanup in the previous Examination Room location where the first release occurred. The OSC visited the facility to ensure cleanup activities were being properly conducted. The mercury was contained from the second release, and air monitoring was conducted to address the second release. The Rp Contractor is currently continuing cleanup activities.

Planned Removal Actions

The mercury will be contained and disposed of, and future plans involve the removal of all blood pressure cuffs containing mercury throughout the facility. The RP Contractor is expected to complete cleanup activities on April 18, 2008

Next Steps

RP Contractor will continue cleanup activities, perform final air monitoring upon completion of the mercury removal, and continue to keep EPA informed of site activities. RP Contractor will also provide a final cleanup Report to OSC.

Key Issues

RP Contractor will remove all existing mercury blood pressure cuffs from the facility.